

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 12, 1906.

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JOHN RUSSELL, JR., President.
A. M. BELDING, Editor.

Circulation of The Times.

Week Ending May 5th, 1906.

MONDAY	6,606
TUESDAY	6,592
WEDNESDAY	6,575
THURSDAY	6,568
FRIDAY	6,577
SATURDAY	6,570
TOTAL	39,488
Daily Average	6,581

Average Daily Sworn Circulation First Three Months, 1906. 6,741

HELPING THE CHILDREN

The duty of society to the welfare of children in cities, and around them with better influence than those of the street, is gaining more general recognition. In Chicago, for example, which is sometimes held up as an example of a very wicked city, perhaps not without some show of reason, there has in recent years been a notable progress in methods of dealing with juvenile delinquency. There is a juvenile court, and protection work for children is well organized. There has been organized a juvenile protective league, whose objects are thus stated:

1. To promote the study of child problems, and by systematic agitation through the press and otherwise to create a permanent public sentiment for the establishment of wholesome, uplifting agencies, such as parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, free baths, reading schools, communal social centres and the like.
2. To suppress and prevent conditions, and to prosecute persons contributing to the dependency and delinquency of children.
3. To co-operate with the juvenile court, compulsory education department, police, factory inspector and all other child-helping agencies.

The league, it is explained, proposes to organize auxiliary branches in every district within the boundaries of Cook County, or to co-ordinate the agencies already engaged in work for juvenile welfare. These branches will work independently of each other in an effort to meet the peculiar conditions and needs of their localities, but they will be under the supervision of a directive board of the league and in touch with the juvenile court.

Such an organization should be able to accomplish much good, although in a great city like Chicago, where so many nationalities are represented, and where there is necessarily under present social conditions so much poverty, it will not be possible to overcome the difficulties in the way of helping all the children.

The city of Denver, which leads all other American cities in the success of its juvenile court, has gone a step farther, and is now enjoining parental responsibility. The law reads:

"In all cases where any child shall be a delinquent child or a juvenile delinquent person, as defined by the statute of this state, the parent or parents, legal guardian or person having the custody of such child or person, shall be held responsible for the delinquency of such child, and upon trial and conviction thereon shall be fined to a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000), or imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding one (1) year, or by both such a fine and imprisonment. The court may impose conditions upon any person found guilty under this act, and so long as such person shall comply therewith to the satisfaction of the court the sentence imposed may be suspended."

An instance is given by a writer in an American exchange, from which the substance of this article is taken, which will be very thoroughly appreciated in St. John, where coal stealing from cars by small boys is not unknown. Railway companies had complained that coal was being stolen, and officers were detailed to watch. They arrested a dozen boys and girls, whose parents were immediately summoned for contributory negligence. There was an instant cessation of coal stealing.

There is now before the Massachusetts legislature a bill providing for the penalizing of parents for juvenile delinquency. The section reads as follows:

"If a boy or girl is adjudged to be a delinquent child, as defined by this act, the parent, legal guardian or person having custody of such boy or girl, who omits to exercise due diligence in the control of such child, to prevent such delinquency, and any such parent, guardian or person, or any other person, who by act or omission causes, promotes, encourages or contributes to, or is responsible for, such delinquency, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for not more than six months."

It would be a decided step in advance if the principle of adult responsibility were embodied in legislation affecting the city of St. John. Then there would be a less number of delinquent children.

MAY IT NOT BE?

The Globe last evening had a characteristic editorial on "Industrial development," which was a column long and a column full. It left the reader in much doubt whether the Globe favours more or less industries in St. John. There was the usual fling at "men of the board of trade," who ally show their interest in machine kind by making interesting

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1906.

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